

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: November 14, 2022

SUBJECT: CCDF ARPA Discretionary Fund ECCP® Stipend Award Guidance

Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) (Public Law 117-2), and it was signed into law on March 11, 2021. This included \$14.99 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds. Maine received \$45.7 million of these Federal funds. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) will begin a new initiative to further stabilize and support Maine's child care providers, and continue to place value on the three goals outlined in the Child Care Plan for Maine: increase access, quality, and workforce.

OCFS has allocated \$1,455,000 ARPA CCDF Discretionary funds to incentivize child care programs to participate Maine's Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®) program. Programs that participate in Core Classroom Services or Family Child Care Provider Services through ECCP® are eligible to receive stipends. OCFS will issue stipends to a maximum of 220 providers through September 30, 2023, or the until funds are exhausted.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Licensed child care facilities and licensed family child care providers are eligible for stipends.
 - License-exempt and programs licensed solely under the Department of Education, such as a public Pre-K classroom, are not eligible for stipends.
- Eligible programs may receive a one-time **\$5,000** stipend per classroom or family child care program after completing participation in Core Classroom Services **or** Family Child Care Provider Services through September 30, 2023.
 - Stipends will be awarded per classroom. Programs may receive multiple stipends if they meet the criteria below.
 - ECCP® Child-Specific Services through ECCP® are not eligible for a stipend.
- Requirements for a **completed** service include:
 - The program must complete all service visits in the Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Service up to and including the one-month follow-up visit.
 - To qualify, the head or lead teacher in the classroom or program receiving the Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Service must remain employed by

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

- the program and serving as the head or lead teacher in the classroom throughout the service through the one-month follow-up visit. If the head or lead teacher leaves employment or is re-assigned to another classroom prior to the one-month follow-up visit, the classroom or program will not be eligible for a stipend.
- Licensed child care facilities and licensed family child care provider programs who have already completed a Core Classroom Service or Family Child Care Provider Service since January 1, 2021, may be retroactively issued stipends.
 - OCFS will identify programs eligible for a retroactive stipend and contact the program directly.
 - Programs must allocate a minimum of 30% (\$1,500) of each awarded stipend directly to currently employed classroom staff who participated in the Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Service. Staff that are no longer employed by the provider are not required to receive this allocation.

For more information on ECCP®, please contact our office at 1-877-680-5866 or 207-624-7991 or ECCPPProgram.DHHS@maine.gov.